

Columbia Sunday June 12
1863

Dear Louise

Mamma being so unwell with a sore eye as to make it impossible for her to write, it necessarily devolves upon me to scribble you a few lines, but how to do even that I hardly know it being the first time and you my sister, if you were a Miss Grayton or somebody like her, I should begin in the most flowery & florid style but very solemn, but you are not, so I must try myself to the utmost as I did when you were teaching me to write compositions last winter. "To advance or not to advance that is the question" is with me "To begin and how to begin that is the question," there is no

use working about news from
Charleston as you have it all
in the papers; but those
precious boxes which we have
been following in our minds
from week to week ~~we~~ have
not yet arrived at that port
as a letter stated which was
received by Mr. Stoughton from
Mr. Fogg, ~~and~~ but that he will
not know at the very earliest
moment. I will sympathize
with your feelings if they
should be captured, which to
me seems very likely if they
get by now, while so many
vessels are there, though the
Afronica did get by a few
days ago. In one of your letters
you stated that you ^{are} not
at all pleased with Replies
what have you heard from

attempt
blackmailing

Ashville, we are indeed so sure
of going there that we have
fixed tomorrow two weeks
for the day of leaving; we have
asked Mr. Roastin to go with
us, which arrangement he has
accepted, we also asked
the two Misses Heywards and
Julius, but Mr & H. thought that
she would wait and see if
we liked Ashville and if so
she would send them on
or bring them herself and
with us form a party and
go to the Warm Springs or
any other place. Miss Anna
seems very anxious to see that
celebrated marriage of ~~the~~
the foolish Miss Ellett with
Colonel Primard, "see 19" he is
with two children" one is
about as foolish as the other

But as I am at the end I must have to close, Mama sends love like one graft, better saying

if I were the clergyman I should be tempted to make the mistake on purpose and carry them both to the font and ask him if he came here to baptize her. Let it never be said thereafter that ^{ladies} gods are wiser than men. You said in one of your letters that if I wanted any message to be given to the girls ^{of the dock} to send a direct one, well, as Henry sent his love I'll order him to tell them I'll give them all a kiss if they'll take it. Remember me to Jon ^{your mind about that} towards the Ten holms and the rest. Much rather would I be at a party at the Johns Jones than all Nyes, Gibbs, or City Hall gettings up which we have here. Would that I had four more sheets to write upon now that I have commenced